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THE
ICONOGRAPHY
OF THE
BATTERY
AND
CASTLE GARDEN

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SEYMOUR DURST

t' Fort nieuw Amsterdam op de Manhatans



FORT NEW AMSTERDAM



(NEW YORK), 1651.

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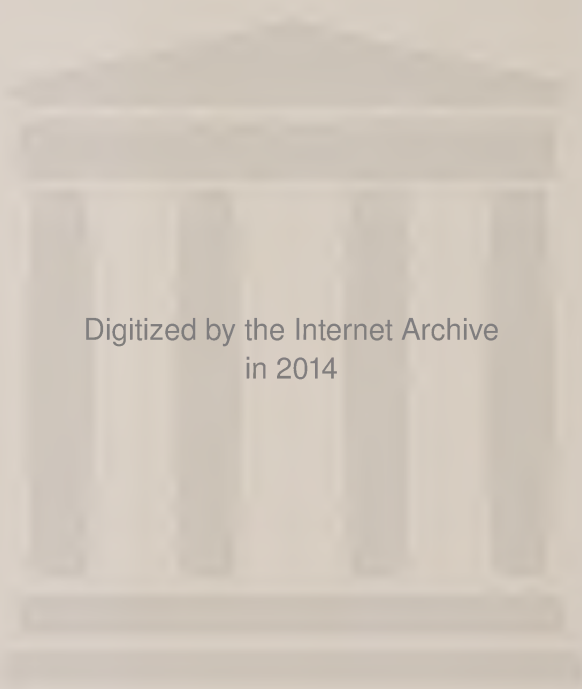
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THE ICONOGRAPHY OF
THE BATTERY AND
CASTLE GARDEN



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CASTLE GARDEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

THE
ICONOGRAPHY
OF THE
BATTERY
AND
CASTLE GARDEN
BY
WILLIAM LORING ANDREWS



NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
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Copyright, 1901

BY WILLIAM LORING ANDREWS



AUTHOR'S NOTE

AN attempt has been made in this little book to produce on hand-made paper, composed of linen rags and not of wood-pulp, illustrations as satisfactory in character as it is possible to obtain by the use solely of the reproductive processes of the present day. The plates for the frontispiece in color, and the illustrations on the title and on pages 3, 11, 14, 34, 35, 44 are made by a half-tone process of a fineness and a delicacy in values not heretofore attempted.

These processes have come to stay

Author's Note

and will unavoidably enter into the construction of the great mass of modern books. We are forced to accept the situation, much as we may regret the passing away, which it involves, of individuality in the manner of the execution of the pictures with which our books, magazines and newspapers are filled and the substitution therefor of the operation of a mere machine.

The type-setting, printing, plate-making and binding of this book have all been performed under one roof. The maker of it was obliged to seek only for the paper and the ink outside of the fire-proof building in which it was constructed.





A DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS IN THIS BOOK

CASTLE GARDEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY, with the float-
ing baths moored off the Battery Frontispiece

Copied from a series of small colored lithographs published
probably about 1860.

BATTERY AND CASTLE GARDEN Vignette on Title

From a drawing by Geo. Miller, engraved by James Smillie
in "The Pocket Annual" published by J. Disturnell,
N. Y., 1848.

*A Description and Plan of the Battery and
old Fort George as they existed before the
Revolutionary War* . FACING PAGE 3

From the original pen and ink drawing made by Col. John
Van Dyk in 1827, formerly in the possession of G.
Furman,* now in that of the author.

In studying this plan we must remember that "as late
as 1801 the outside street on the west side of the town
was Greenwich Street from the Battery up to Cedar Street."

* Presumably Gabriel Furman, author of "Notes Relating to the Town of
Brooklyn."

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From "Russell's History of the War in America," London, 1788.

The following collation of the four different states in which the engraving by I. Carwitham (from which the above described picture in Russell's History was copied), is found, has been kindly furnished the author by Mr. R. T. H. Halsey.

- 1 A View of FORT GEORGE with the CITY OF NEW YORK from the S W. I. Carwitham, Sculp. No publisher's name. Eight reference numerals identifying prominent buildings. A large "V" on the upper right-hand corner of sky. Uncolored.

- 2 Similar to above save for the fact that beneath the title is the inscription "Printed for Carington Bowles, Map Printseller at No. 69 in St. Paul's Church Yard, London." (This store was occupied by Carington Bowles from 1764 until 1793, when Bowles & Carver succeeded to his business.) Colored.

- 3 Similar to above save that the "V" and reference numerals have been erased. Upon the lower left-hand border appear the numerals "35." Colored.

- 4 Title changed to "*South-West View of the CITY of NEW YORK in North America.*" Above the title is this line—"London Printed for Bowles & Carver, No. 69 St. Paul's Church Yard." Colored.

The plate in its last state is still in existence and impressions from it are in circulation.

It can be safely stated that this view was made between 1764 and 1776, as it shows St. Paul's Chapel, which was erected on the former date, and Trinity Church, which was destroyed by fire in 1776.

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A copy of this engraving in the first state is in the Library of Congress. A copy in the second state is in the collection of Mr. R. T. H. Halsey. A copy in the third state is in the collection of Mr. E. B. Holden, and a copy in the fourth and last state (barring the restrike) is in the possession of the writer.

A section of the PLAN of the CITY of
NEW YORK Engraved by *P. R. Maver-
ick, 65 Liberty St., New York. 1798 (?)* 23

Showing the location of the Government House, indicated by the No. 24. No. 15 denotes the Bowling Green.

View of the GOVERNMENT HOUSE (later
the Custom House) and a part of the
BATTERY from the *New York Magazine*
for 1795 25

Goodrich in his "Picture of New York," 1828, states that the Government House was pulled down in 1811, and with the ground upon which it stood and its garden, was in 1812 offered to be sold by the State to the Corporation of the City of New York for \$50,000, but President King of Columbia College, in a lecture delivered in 1852, on "The City of New York and its Progress During the last Fifty Years," gives the date of its demolition as after 1814, and thus describes the building and its surroundings: "Another edifice of note was the Government House which stood on an eminence at the foot of Broadway south of Bowling Green. The house was a large double brick building with a showy portico in front to which the ascent was by many steps; the apartments were many and spacious and the yard and garden behind extended to Bridge Street, and occupied the whole

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block bounded by State Street on the west, and by White- hall Street on the east."	
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From a drawing by Wade ; engraved by Booth in the " Picturesque Tourist," published by J. Disturnell, 1844.	

EXTRACT

"Of the public squares the BATTERY is the principal. It affords a fine view of the bay and harbor, and of the adjacent islands and opposite shores. It contains about eleven acres of ground, laid out in gravel walks and ornamented with trees and shrubbery. As a public promenade it is probably not surpassed in the beauty of its situation and general attractions by any other in the world. A

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castle, built on a mole in the harbor, is connected with the grounds by a bridge, and is now used as a place of amusement, and for the exhibition of fire works."	
MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE, WALL STREET, NEW YORK.	35

From the original drawing by C. Burton for Hinton's (J. H.) "History of the United States," London, 1830.

EXTRACT

"Built of white marble, 114 feet front in Wall Street, depth extending back to Garden Street, 150 feet. Main building two stories high besides the basement and attic story. From the attic story a flight of stairs leads to a room in the cupola where the telegraphic signals are which are returned from the telegraph at the Narrows, 7 ½ miles distant.

"The cost of this building including the ground was 230,000 dollars. It was commenced in 1824 and completed in three years. It was destroyed in the GREAT FIRE on the night of Dec. 16th, 1835, which in fifteen hours destroyed an area of fifty acres of the most valuable business part of the city; 674 houses and stores were consumed in this the most disastrous conflagration that has ever visited the City of New York."

INTERIOR OF CASTLE GARDEN	39
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From a woodcut in a magazine article entitled "New York Daguerreotyped," published about 1865.

EXTRACT

"Castle Garden, the unique, remains, where opera, music and the drama are presented by turns. It is a hall of unequalled advantages for public exhibitions, which was originally a fort, but has long been appropriated to the refining arts of peace."

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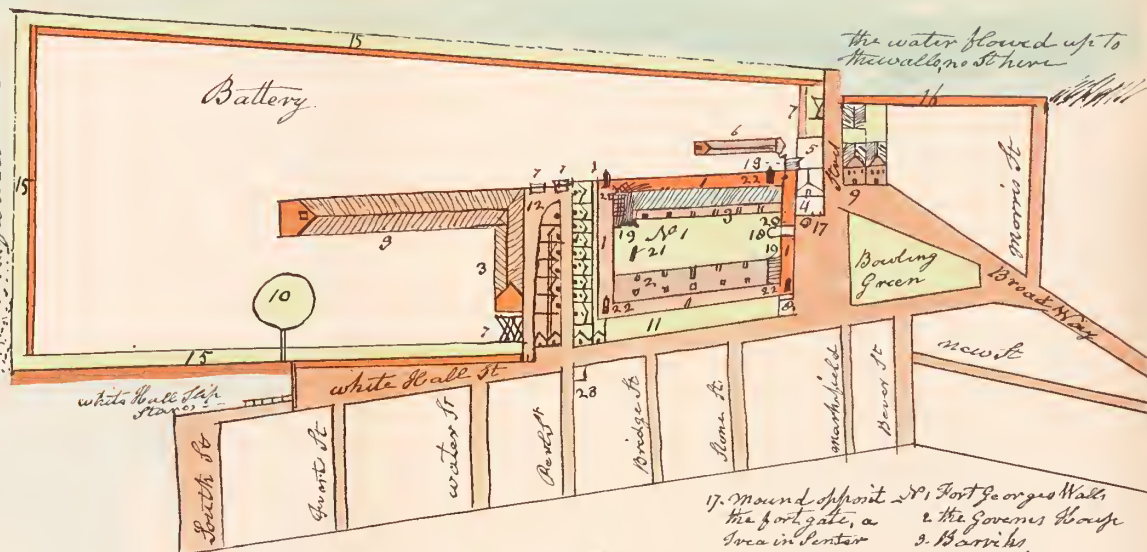


THE ICONOGRAPHY OF
THE BATTERY AND
CASTLE GARDEN

East River -

half tide the water flowed over the half moon battery 14

Hudson River



Remark - the peril street, from the Battery to White Hall St. was called peril, a Dutch word for Danger - was the first street built under the guns of Fort George by the Dutch -

This description and Plan of the Battery, and old Fort George in the City of New York as they existed before the Revolutionary War, was made by Col John Van Dyke of this City who was Captain of Artillery in the American Army during the Revolution. He made it in 1827.

17. Mound opposite N^o 1 Fort Georges Wall the fort gate, a
18. the Governors House
19. a road depending to the top of fort wall - 6
20. a passage down to the magazine
21. a pump for water
22. Sentinal Boxes
23. a School House
24. was the first half moon Battery at high tide, over flowed
25. Battery Wall
26. wall, keep up Bank
27. the Governors House
28. Barracks
29. Gunners House
30. a Pond of water
31. ground fenced off
32. a street not paved
33. most all studies -
34. Flag Staff
35. was the first half moon Battery at high tide, over flowed
36. Battery Wall
37. wall, keep up Bank



CASTLE GARDEN FROM THE BATTERY. 1848

THE ICONOGRAPHY OF THE BATTERY AND CASTLE GARDEN

IT was in the closing years of the seventeenth century that the southwest extremity of the Island of Manhattan—anciently known as Schreyer's Hook—was first laid out as a public park for the use and behoof of the people of New York. A ledge of rocks called the CAPSKE reared its black craggy head, garlanded with seaweed, above the blue waters off the out-

The Iconography of the

ermost point of the island; and as a state of war existed between France and England, and it was feared that the enemy contemplated a descent upon the city, the Governor of the Province of New York, Colonel Benjamin Fletcher, determined to "erect a platform on the outmost point of rocks under the Fort, whereon to build a battery commanding both rivers." He therefore issued a proclamation requiring the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen of the City of New York, and Manning's* (Blackwell's) and Barent's (Great and Little Barn) Islands "to cut down 86 cordes of stockadoes of 12 feet in

* Blackwell's Island was at this time the property of Captain John Manning, the officer in command of the fort at Bowling Green, who in August, 1673, surrendered it to the Dutch, for which act of treachery, as it was called, he was sentenced to have his sword broken over his head. He settled the island upon his step-daughter Mary, who married Robert Blackwell, from whom it received the name it has borne to the present time. See Mrs. Martha J. Lamb's "History of the City of New York."

Battery and Castle Garden

length and to have them in readiness to be conveyed to New York."

These defensive works, constructed in 1693, extended from the present Whitehall Street westward two or three hundred feet and were commonly known as the Whitehall Battery. About the same time that the Battery, which Governor Fletcher found "itt of absolute necessity to make," was constructed, steps were also taken for filling up the ground around the Fort for the purpose of increasing its area and laying it out as an esplanade and pleasure-ground. As such it has remained from that day to this, and although latterly it has fallen upon evil times, has been greatly encroached upon and sadly defaced by the heavy iron trestle-work of the elevated road, it still remains the most delightful spot on earth to all true Knickerbockers and the bourne towards which they turn with longing and delight.

The Iconography of the

The appearance of this end of the island when the Dutch traders first built their thatched-roofed huts upon it, is displayed in the print on page twenty-one of the "*Beschrijvinghe van Virginia, Nieuw Nederlandt, etc., t'Amsterdam 1651,*"—provided this engraving is what it purports to be, and not, as some have ventured to assert, a clever concoction of Joost Hartgers, the publisher of this rare and valuable little tract. However this may be, there is no reason to doubt the authenticity of the view inset in the map in Adriaen vander Donck's "*Nieuvv-Nederlandt,*" which engraving shows a narrow, barren, and rather precipitous shore with a number of one-and-a-half-story houses nestling closely as if for protection under the walls of Fort Amsterdam. This and nothing more was the condition of the southernmost point of the island of Manhattan, Anno Domini 1656, as it

Battery and Castle Garden



NOVUM AMSTERODAMUM. 1671

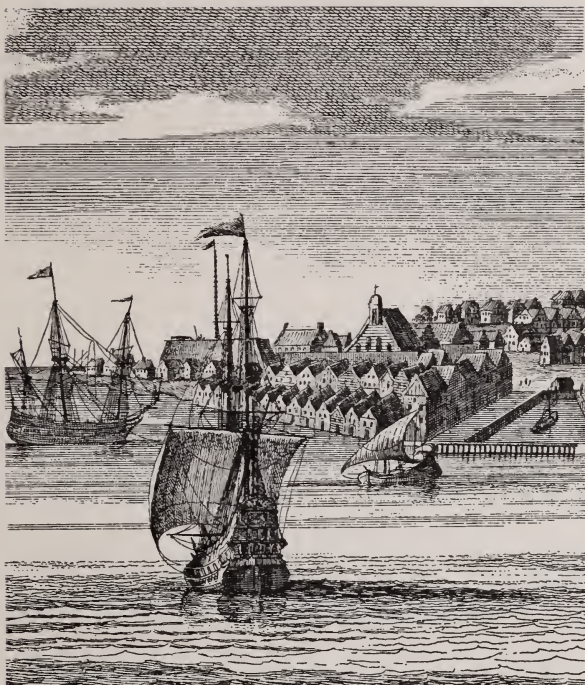
is depicted in Vander Donck's "*Description.*" There are no signs anywhere of the sunflowers, and red and white lilies which Mynheer Donck tells us the Netherlands found growing in profusion and to which they added roses, tulips and gilliflowers—or of the kitchen and herb gardens in which our Dutch great-grandmothers found heartsease and comfort, and which under their careful husbandry thrived apace and produced

The Iconography of the

goodly store of cabbages and pumpkins, rosemary, marjoram, lavender and thyme.

In the view inset in Hugo Allard's second map, 1673 (?), the ground in front of the Fort (from which, by the way, the windmill, which waves its outstretched arms over that structure in all the earlier pictures, has disappeared) presents much the same appearance that it does in the Visscher and Vander Donck maps, except that a second row of houses is shown standing directly upon the brink of the water. As every other picture of New York, down to the one engraved by William Burgis in 1717, is simply a replica of the foregoing, Burgis's six-foot panoramic view is our next resource. Unfortunately the extremity of the island in this picture is almost entirely hidden by the ruins of Whitehall, the former residence of Governor Thomas Dongan,

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NIEU AMSTERDAM. 1702

and this "*South Prospect of y^e Flourishing City of New York*" is of little or no assistance to us in our present quest. Views or maps of the island of Manhattan and the city of New York for one

The Iconography of the

hundred years and more after the arrival of the Dutch are few and far between; and so we come in short order to the Bradford map of 1731. The word Battery does not appear upon it, but it exhibits the open ground or Parade around the Fort and a *Ledge of Rocks* extending from Whitehall one thousand feet and over to the westward, so that it would appear that Governor Fletcher did not quite reach, as he intended, the *outmost* point of rocks with his *platform*.

In 1734 the Battery was ordered to be "kept clear of houses from Whitehall Street to Eelds' corner," now Marketfield Street. This date, therefore, probably marks the period when the one-and-a-half-story buildings in front of the fort, or their successors, which are so prominent in the Visscher, Vander Donck, Allard and Montanus Maps, were finally removed.

In 1756 William Smith, Chief Justice



SECTION OF THE BRADFORD MAP. 1731

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of the Province of New York until, as a Tory, he was obliged to flee the country, completed a history of the Province of New York from the first discovery to the year 1732 in which he inserted a large folding plate entitled "THE SOUTH VIEW OF OSWEGO ON LAKE ONTARIO." New York print-collectors have always felt aggrieved that Justice Smith did not give them a picture of the chief town of the Province instead of a view of this far western settlement. He forces us to accept the word-picture (from which we extract the following short paragraph) in lieu of the engraved one we feel that we had a right to expect as a frontispiece in a work of this importance on the Province and City of New York :

"Below the walls of the garrison (Fort) near the water we have lately raised a line of fortifications which commands the entrance into the Eastern road and the mouth of Hudson's River. This

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THE DUYCKINCK MAP. MDCCLV

Battery is built of stone, and the merlons consist of cedar joists filled in with earth. It mounts 92 cannon and these are all the works we have to defend us." Happily the Duyckinck Map compensates us for the shortcomings in the way of illustrations in the work of Justice Smith and his son (who wrote a con-

Battery and Castle Garden

tinuation of his father's history from 1732 to 1762), and shows the situation and appearance of the fortifications at the Battery at the precise period covered by their history, Duyckinck's Map being dated 1755. Many of the rocks lying off the Battery, as shown in the Bradford Map, disappeared under this line of fortifications.

A fine line and stipple engraving, and as charming a picture of the upper Bay and the City of New York as we possess, is the long and narrow view taken from Governor's Island which decorates the large plan (three by four feet in size) of the City of New York by B. Ratzer, 1766-1767.* This picture and the ground plan of the Battery and old Fort

* The *View*, however, has above it this line: "London. Published according to Act of Parliament, January 12, 1776, by Jefferys and Faden, Corner of St. Martin's Lane, Charing Cross." This would indicate that the date of the picture is ten years later than the one inscribed upon the plan to which it is attached.

The Iconography of the

George (*alias* Fort Anne and sundry other *aliases*), made by Colonel John Van Dyk, a captain of Artillery in the Revolutionary War, clearly define and present to view the construction and appearance of the Battery as it existed when the first great crisis in the history of our country was approaching. The trouble that was brewing between England and her Colonies kept the mother country busy spying out the land and sounding the harbors of her rebellious children. Among the charts and war maps which Great Britain's ministers made haste to prepare at this momentous period, we find the plan surveyed in the winter of 1766* by the military engineer, John Montresor,

* Most of the impressions of this Plan that we see are dated 1775, *but* a copy in the Exhibition of New York Maps and Views, held at the Lenox Library in February, 1901, is dated 1766, and consequently we are obliged to assign to it this date, which makes it coeval with the Ratzer Map. Is one a copy of the other? If so, which is the original?



SECTION OF THE MONTRESOR PLAN. 1766

A. FORT GEORGE B. BATTERIES C. MILITARY HOSPITAL

Battery and Castle Garden

which gives a scientifically accurate ground plan and full description of the Fort and Battery at New York and their means of offense and defense. The *external* appearance of these structures from the water side is shown in I. Carwitham's engraving published in London by Carington Bowles about 1770. This print was afterwards published by Messrs. Bowles & Carver, a firm of print-sellers, which, a London book-seller has correctly stated, did not exist prior to 1794, as is shown by an examination of the London Directories in the British Museum. This is damaging to the reputations of Messrs. Bowles & Carver, for it proves that they were guilty of either gross carelessness or intentional misrepresentation in leaving the British flag flying over the fort at the Battery. Rumors must have reached their ears of the evacuation of New York by the English forces in 1783, eleven years

The Iconography of the

before, and of the consequent disappearance then and thenceforth forever of every emblem of British sovereignty from this island.

This attractive picture fortunately was reproduced on a smaller scale in Russell's "History of the War" (1788) and so brought within reach of a modest purse, which the Carwitham print, by reason of its scarcity, certainly is not. Russell also neglected to lower the flag of Albion in his picture as the truth of history required him to do and the Union Jack still floats in vain pretence over the City of New York.

About the year 1788 it was resolved to remove the old Fort, now partially in ruins, and erect upon the site a residence for the President of the United States. This building was known as the Government House; the stones from the demolished Fort were used in the foundations. The appearance of this old Fort-



SOUTH-WEST VIEW OF FORT GEORGE WITH THE CITY OF NEW YORK 1770

Battery and Castle Garden



SECTION OF MAP OF P. R. MAVERICK, 1798(?)
SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE (NO. 24)

ress, immediately before its demolition, and of the ground adjacent to it, which later became known as the Battery, is thus described by a contemporary writer:

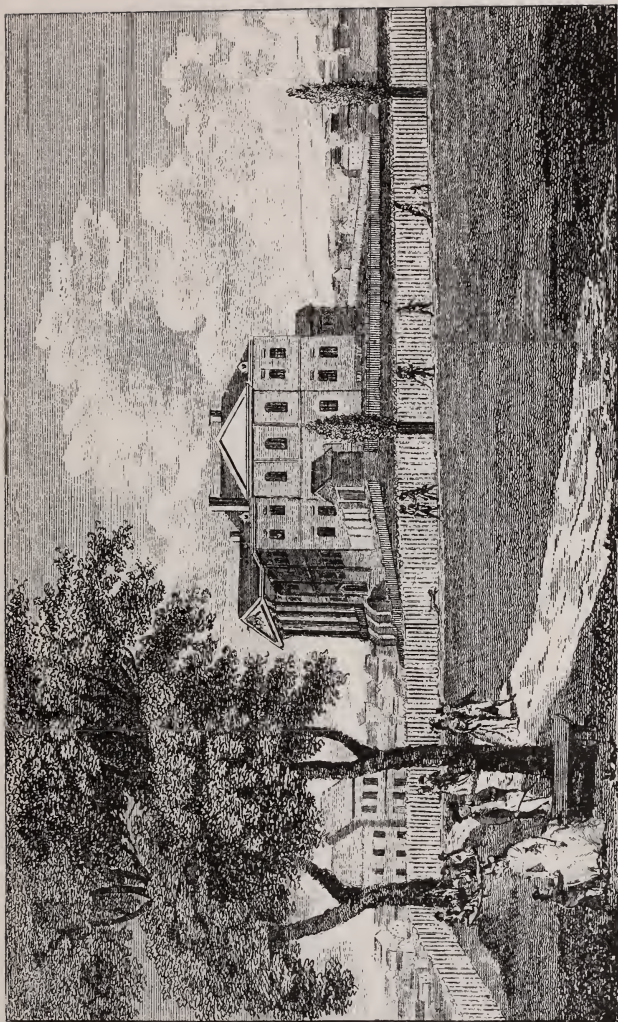
“First a green bank which was slop-

The Iconography of the

ing about fourteen feet high, on which were erected the walls (of the Fort) of about twenty feet additional height. In front toward the Bowling Green were two apple trees and an old linden tree, which were about the same height as the walls."

The view of the Government House here reproduced from the plate in the New York Magazine of January, 1795, is taken from the northwest corner of the Battery near the end of Greenwich Street. "It exhibits a part of the city and some portion of the green and walk on the Battery."

John Drayton's "Tour through the Northern and Eastern States in 1794" contains a pretty copper-plate engraving of the Battery from a drawing by the author himself. It is an important little picture in the iconography of New York City, for it is the only one in existence, so far as I know, which shows the Bat-

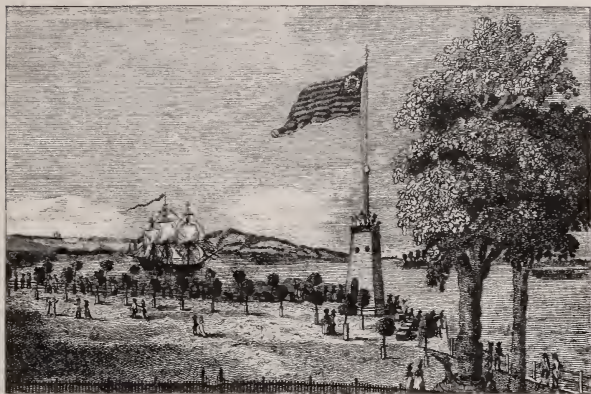


THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE. 1795



Battery and Castle Garden

tery at this particular time from the landward side. This view is accompanied by the following interesting narrative from



THE BATTERY AND HARBOUR OF NEW YORK. 1794

the pen of our distinguished visitor from South Carolina:

“After passing these islands we came opposite the Battery, which is at the extreme point of the town, and is situated much like that which was at White Point at Charlestown. It has no merlons or embrasures, but the guns (which are

The Iconography of the

thirteen in number) are placed upon carriages on a stone platform *en barbette*, some few feet above the level of the water. Between the guns and the water is a public walk, made by a gentle decline from the platform, and going round the ground upon which the Battery is placed. Some little distance behind the guns two rows of elm trees are planted, which, in a short time, will afford an agreeable shade. The flag staff rises from the midst of a stone tower, and is decorated on the top with a golden ball; and the back part of the ground is laid out in smaller walks, terraces and a bowling green. Immediately behind this and overlooking it is the Government House."

This drawing by Colonel Drayton depicts the Battery at the particular period when Dr. Francis, the New York extra-illustrator's benefactor *par excellence*, first knew the "charming place."

Battery and Castle Garden

Dr. Francis's reference to the Battery in his "Old Yorker, or Reminiscences of the Last Sixty Years" (New York, 1865), is of especial interest to the arboriculturist by reason of the account it gives of the introduction into this country and the expulsion therefrom of the Lombardy poplar tree.

Dr. Francis informs us that his first visit to the Battery was on the occasion of the funeral of General Washington. "The procession gathered there and about the Bowling Green. The Battery was then profusely set out with Lombardy poplar trees introduced into the country by the elder Michaux, who had been sent to America from the Jardin des Plantes, of Paris. It was pronounced an exotic of priceless value, but like many things of an exotic nature it polluted the soil, vitiated our own more stately and valuable indigenous products, and was finally eradicated as uncongenial

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and detrimental to the native riches of American husbandry.”

In 1806, four hundred feet of ground under water, on which Castle Garden now stands, was ceded to Congress by the corporation of the City of New York; and Castle Clinton, then called the South West Battery, was erected on the mole constructed on these water lots and connected with Battery Park by a bridge. It is built of Jersey red sandstone. As to the date of the erection of Fort Clinton, the doctors disagree. One authority says 1806; another 1807–8–9; another 1811; and still another 1814. The truth probably lies midway betwixt the extremes. Battery Park at this time contained about ten acres, and the water front extending in a crescent-shape from Whitehall Street to Market-field Street (now Battery Place) is stated to have measured about a quarter of a mile.

Battery and Castle Garden



SECTION OF MAP IN PEABODY'S VIEWS. 1831

In 1822, Castle Clinton (so named after the War of 1812), when it had been dismantled and the garrison had

The Iconography of the

been removed to Governor's Island, was ceded back to the Corporation of the City of New York by the United States Government; and in 1824, the Fortress, whose period of usefulness appears to have been exceedingly brief, entirely lost its martial character. It was leased by the Corporation for a period of five years at an annual rental of fourteen hundred dollars. The lessees covered it with a roof and converted it into an immense apartment, which was considered at the time to be the largest audience-room in the world. This was fitted up as a promenade and place of entertainment and immediately became a fashionable resort. The grand "Fête and Gala," given to Lafayette on his second visit to this country in September of this year, was attended by about six thousand persons and "far transcended," it was said, "in splendor any pageant ever before witnessed in the United States." The gay

Battery and Castle Garden



LANDING OF LAFAYETTE, AUGUST 16, 1824

and lively appearance of the Battery on the occasion of this notable festival is shown by the scarce little print of "The Landing of Lafayette," which we reproduce. It will be noticed that the flag-staff rising out of a square stone tower, which was compared by Irving in his "History of New York" to the handle of a gigantic churn, is as conspicuous in this as it is in Drayton's earlier picture.

Now began the peaceful, palmy days of the Battery and Castle Garden. "The

The Iconography of the



NEW YORK HARBOR FROM THE BATTERY. 1844

felicitous situation of this spot," writes Goodrich in his "Picture of New York in 1828," "and the combination of objects that are here presented to the eye, caused a rush of genteel company during the warm season that was quite unprecedented in our City." "The Hudson River with its rugged western border, stretching far to the north, the near view of large ships of war and merchantmen moored off in the river, or the harbor, the arrival and departure of steamboats at various hours of the

Battery and Castle Garden



MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE, WALL STREET. 1830
SHOWING THE TELEGRAPH ABOVE THE DOME

day, crowded with passengers and noisy
with bells, steam and bugles, and foamy

The Iconography of the

in their progress, the distant forts and not infrequently the firing of cannon from them, and also from shipping, the large and dry terrace and parterres of the Battery walk usually swarming with visitors, the fine trees and regular and handsome private dwellings around the east side of the Battery, the *telegraph* at work, the distant hills of Staten Island and New Jersey covered with verdure, and forming a background to a noble expanse of water and a harbor thirty miles in circumference. These are the attractions that cause the Castle Garden of New York to be the most favored place of public resort."

The telegraph referred to by Goodrich was a line of signals extending from the Exchange in Wall Street, by way of Staten Island, to Sandy Hook, by means of which intelligence was conveyed to the city from incoming vessels. The poet Halleck has immortalized this

Battery and Castle Garden

primitive mode of communication in the lines which recite how Fanny's father in the days of his short-lived prosperity learned

*“ to distinguish well
The different signals whether ship or schooner
Hoisted at Staten Island ; and to tell
The change of wind and of his neighbor's fortunes.”*

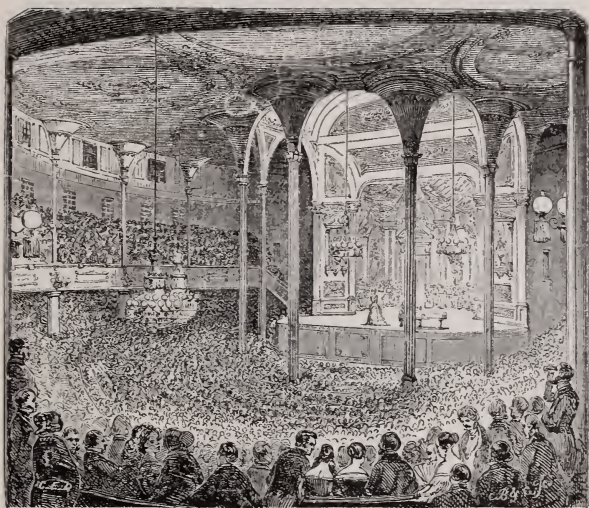
For a quarter of a century Castle Garden remained a popular place of amusement and the Battery a rallying-spot in civic festivities, and the starting-point for processions or military parades in honor of distinguished visitors or in celebration of national, state and other anniversaries. During the pleasant summer-time frequent exhibitions of fireworks and balloon ascensions brought thousands of people to this cool retreat to enjoy the invigorating breezes fresh from the sea and regale themselves with ice-cream and the other delicacies of

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the season served in the booths which lined the shaded Battery walks.

In 1850 Jenny Lind, under the management of the great showman, P. T. Barnum, delighted with her nightingale notes the thousands who crowded Castle Garden to listen to her wonderful voice. Later the metamorphosed interior of the grim fortress "rang with the melodious tones of Malibran, Grisi and Mario, the great tenor, singing in opera under the direction of Max Maretzek." But their songs were soon hushed, for the Garden in 1855 was turned into a depot for newly landed emigrants. It was still connected with the mainland by a bridge; but Battery Park was shortly afterwards enlarged, extended to the Castle, and buildings were erected thereon for the reception and accommodation of the crowds of "unbidden European guests, who landed on the shores of Manhattan," and were thence "*forwarded*" as expe-

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INTERIOR OF CASTLE GARDEN. 1852(?)

ditiously as possible “to the fertile regions of the great West.”

In 1890 the offices of the Emigration Commissioners were removed to Ellis Island, and in 1896 Castle Garden was opened as a public aquarium, which it still remains.

The “New York Mirror,” “Bourne’s” and “Peabody’s Views” supply pleasing

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pictures of the Battery in the first quarter of the last century when as a pleasure resort it was in its heyday of prosperity. By these pictures we see that it was well planted with trees and shrubbery, laid out into gravel walks and surrounded on the water side by a sea-wall of masonry surmounted by wooden posts and rails. A paved walk around this embankment furnished a delightful promenade for the thousands of visitors, young and old and of all sorts and conditions in life, who frequented the spot and could thence enjoy a view of Governor's, Bedlow's and Ellis's islands, the shores of New Jersey and Long Island, and the harbor alive with moving craft, which Goodrich so graphically describes. The front of the Battery towards State and Whitehall Streets, which is not shown in any of these engravings, was fenced in with an iron railing which was removed at the same

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BAY AND HARBOR OF NEW YORK FROM THE
BATTERY. 1831

time as were those which surrounded the other City Parks.

For a number of years floating swimming baths were towed in the Spring from their winter moorings to the Battery and there stationed during the summer solstice, to the frantic delight of the youth of New York and the comfort and refreshment of many of their elders.

We cannot close our monograph more felicitously than by quoting Washing-

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ton Irving's reference in his "Knickerbocker's History of New York" to this ideal spot among our pleasure-grounds and breathing-places.

"Originally this point of land was fortified by the Dutch, who threw up embankments upon which they placed some pieces of cannon. In process of time it came to be pleasantly overrun by a verdant carpet of grass and clover, and their high embankments overshadowed by wide-spreading sycamores, among whose foliage the little birds sported about, rejoicing the ear with their melodious notes. The old burghers would repair of an afternoon to smoke their pipes under the shade of their branches, contemplating the golden sun as he gradually sank in the west, an emblem of that tranquil end towards which themselves were hastening; while the young men and the damsels of the town would take many a moonlight stroll among

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these favorite haunts, watching the chaste Cynthia tremble along the calm bosom of the bay or light up the white sail of some gliding bark, and interchanging the honest vows of constant affection. Such was the origin of that renowned walk, THE BATTERY, which, though ostensibly devoted to the purposes of war, has ever been consecrated to the sweet delights of peace. The favorite walk of declining age; the healthful resort of the feeble invalid; the Sunday refreshment of the dusty tradesman; the scene of many a boyish gambol; the rendezvous of many a tender assignation; the comfort of the citizen; the ornament of New York and the pride of the lovely island of Mannahatta."

The Battery is geographically, a uniquely situated bit of *terra firma* on this island of ours, and holds a proud pre-eminence among our city parks which it must continue to enjoy until in "the

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wrecks of matter and the crush of worlds,"
some wild convulsion of nature blots
out of existence our beautiful bay and its
setting of emerald hills.



STEAMBOAT LANDING, PIER NO. 1, NORTH RIVER,
AS SEEN FROM BATTERY PARK

1848



